California State Parks Trails Policy

Objectives:

- Understand the History and current status of regulated Trail Use in California State Parks.
- Understand California State Parks Trail Change-in–Use Process

California State Parks Trail Policy

Propagated in California Administrative Code (CAC) and changed to California Code of Regulations (CCR)

- 1979 CAC (CCR)
- 1983 CAC (CCR)
- 1988 Bike Use Policy
- 2005 Trails Policy
- 2008 Change in Use Policy
- 2011 OPDMDs
- 2015 Transportation Route (Road and Trail) Designation Policy
- 2015 Amended CCR

CCR's Concerning Trail Use

- CCR Section 4359 (Riding and Pack Animals) 1979
  (This regulation remains in effect)
  - No person shall ride, drive, lead, or keep a saddle or pack animal in a unit, or portion thereof, except on such roads, beaches, trails, or areas so designated by the Department. **Closed unless opened.**

- CCR Section 4360 Trail Use 1983/ 2015
  (This regulation was amended in 2015)
  - Unless designated by the Department, all trails are open to pedestrians and closed to all other uses. All allowable trail uses will continue as they are designated at the date of adoption of these regulations unless and until a change is made by order of the District Superintendent. **Closed unless opened.**

Amended CCR 4360 (Trail Use)
(Currently in Effect)

- All trails are open to pedestrians and closed to all other uses unless designated open by the department.
- All allowable uses will continue as currently designated.
- The department may establish speed limits for trail use for units or portions thereof.
- If speed limits are established they will be posted
- Designation of open equestrian and bicycle trails through Superintendent's order

Each Park needs a Superintendent's Posted Order for Use Designation

State of California
Department of Parks Recreation
_____ State Park
_____District
Order No. 000-00-000

TRAIL USE DESIGNATIONS

Order needs to be reissued ever year

1. Attachment Number One of Order # 000-00-000 have been given trail use designations. The trail use designations are:

   - Hiking or Pedestrian Only
   - Accessible Trail (US Access Board Standards)
   - Equestrian.
   - Bicycle
   - Multi-use Trails (Equestrian and Bicycle)

   Hiking or Pedestrian use is allow on all trails and roads unless in administratively closed areas.

2. Off-trail or off-road (cross-country) equestrian or bicycle use is prohibited.

3. Other Pedestrian Disability Mobility Devices - OPDMDs are only allowed on roads and trails designated as class I, accessible, equestrian and/or bicycle designations. (see Department Notice 2011-02)

2005 Trails Policy

recreation opportunities. The Department, through a public planning process, will strive to meet the recreational, educational and interpretation needs of its diverse trail users by developing trails within state park units, consistent with unit classification, general plan directives, cultural and natural resource protection, public safety, accessibility, user compatibility and other legal and policy mandates. Multi-use trails and trail connectivity with adjacent public trail systems will be considered in the development of trail plans or individual trails. Further, District Superintendents have the responsibility for

This is Interpreted by Executive Staff as *multiple use is the goal* on trails *where possible*

The 2005 Trails Policy also Identified Trail Use Designations as Potential Trail User Concerns and Conflicts

The following standard operating procedure will apply to minimize and resolve public concerns and conflicts regarding trail use in a District. These conflicts may arise from an action such as a new or revised trail plan, park unit general plan or other District policy that affects trail use.

How?

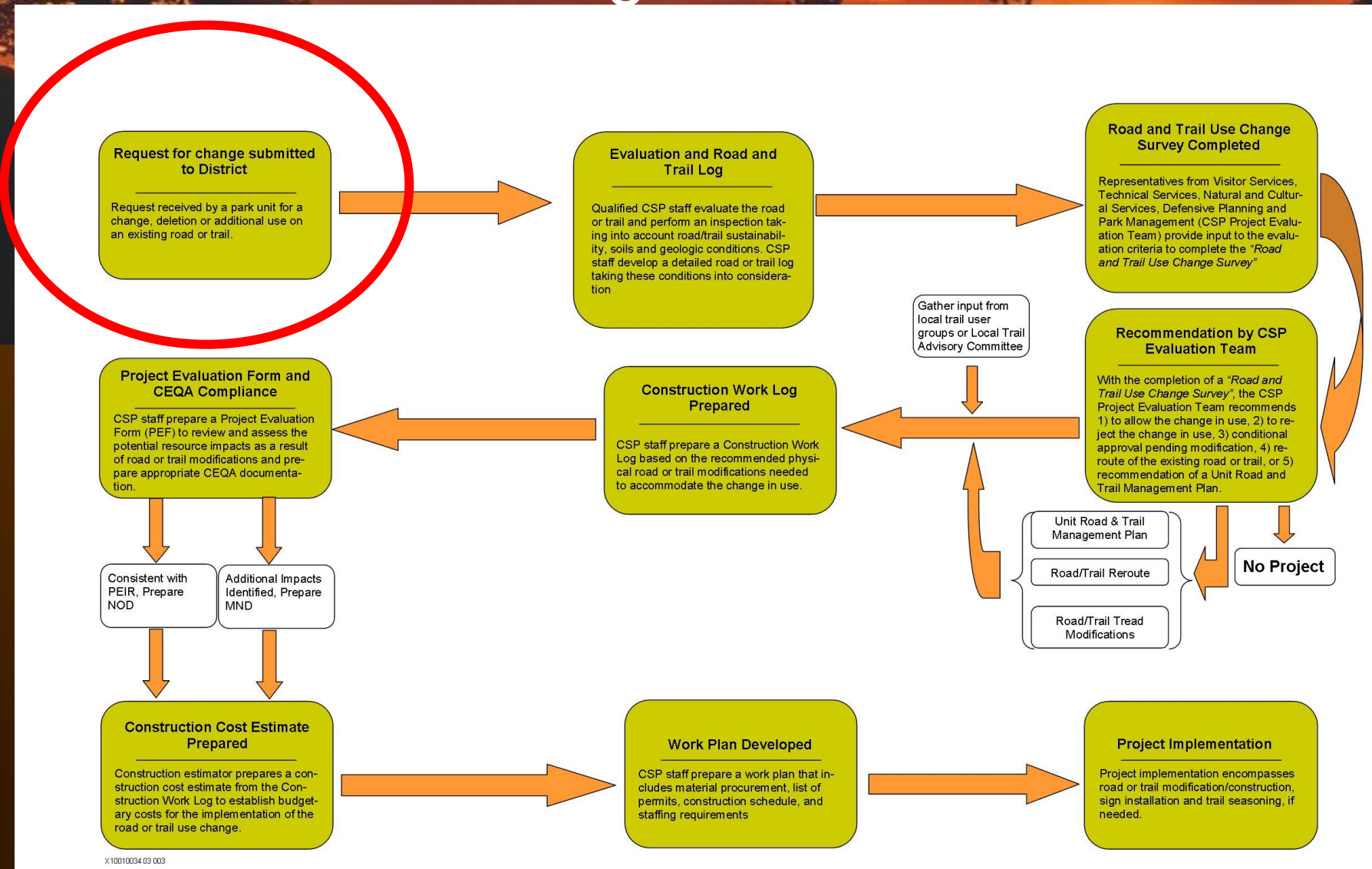
Each District Superintendent shall establish a procedure under the guidelines above that best responds to accepting public input/comment on the issue.

Statewide we received Use Designation Requests - Each District Handled Differently

Trails Change in Use (CIU) Policy

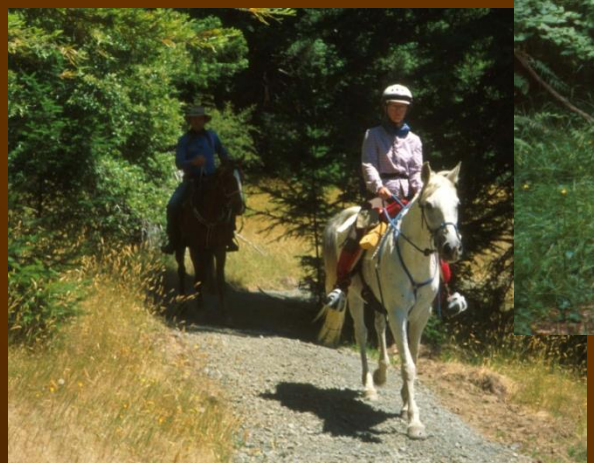
- Objectives:
- Implement 2005 Trail Policy to provide multi-use and trail connectivity
- Departmental need for Objective and consistent evaluation tool
- Defendable process
- Ensure objectives are achieved in an open and transparent process

California State Parks
Trail Change In Use Process



Request Received for a Change in Use

- Additional Use
- Remove Use
- Not User Type Dependent



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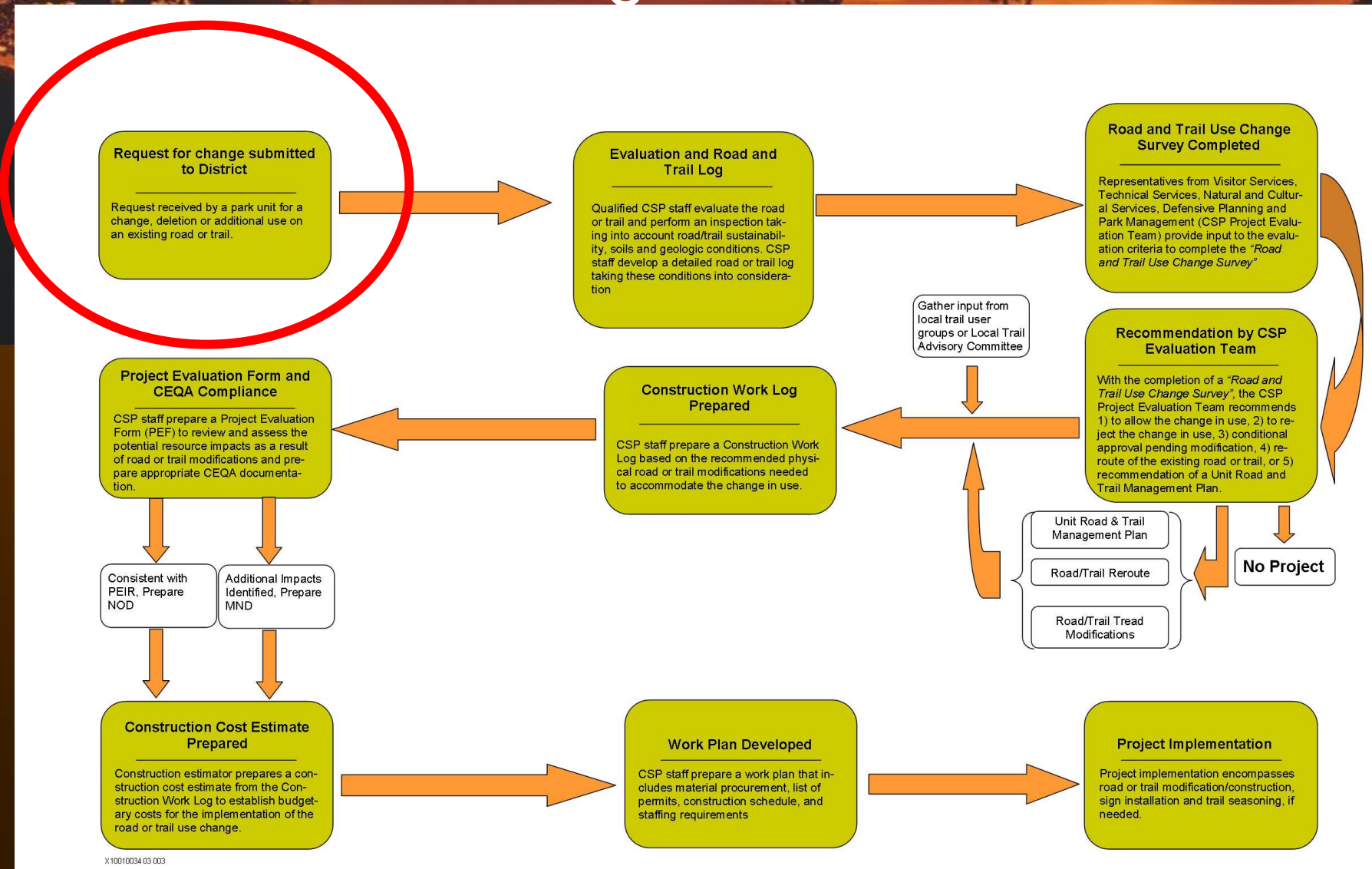
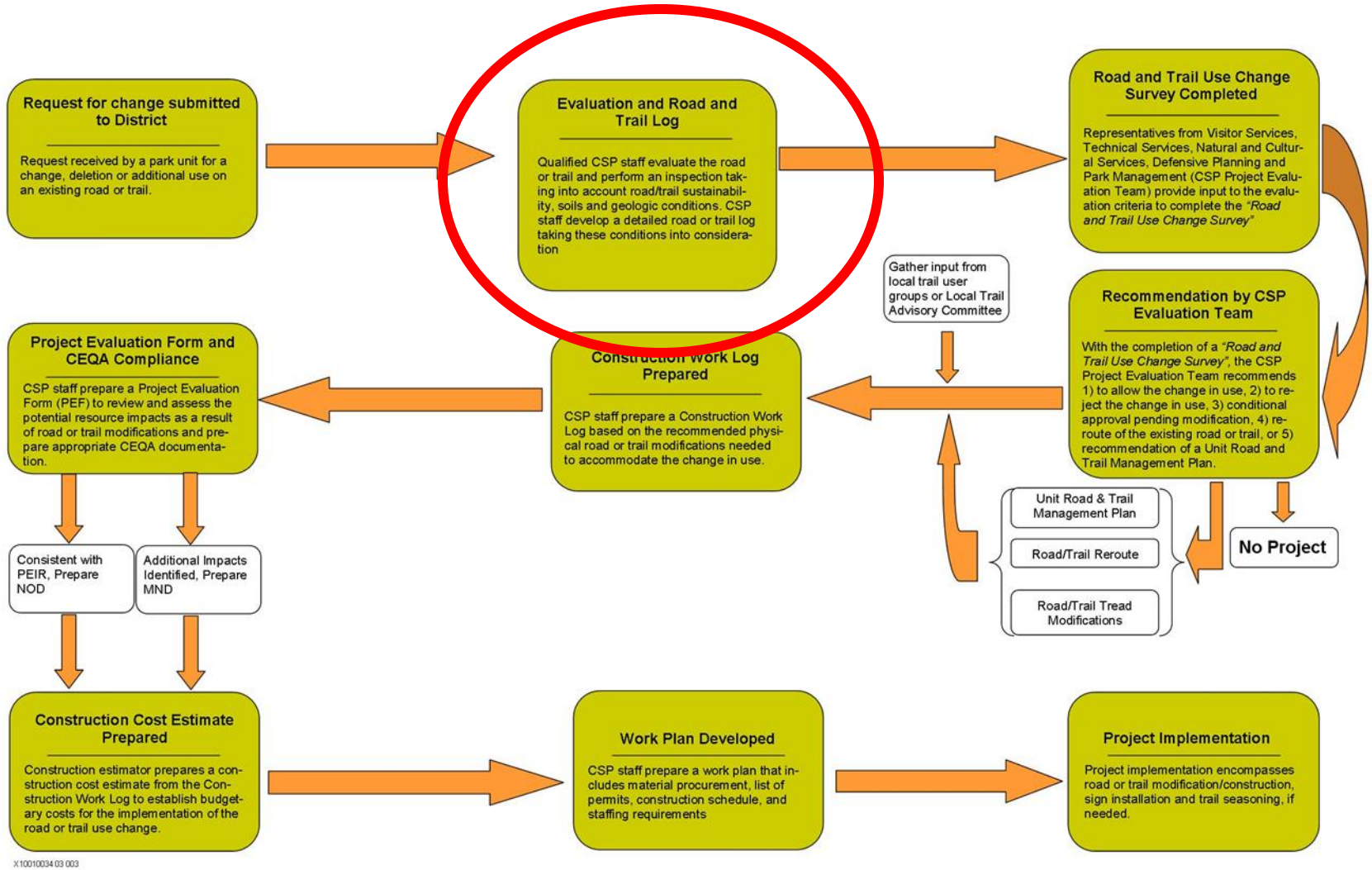


Evaluation of existing conditions Initiated

- Initial Trail Review
- Trail Log Inventory
  - Land Capability
  - Safety Concerns
  - Erosion Issues
  - Trail Structures

California State Parks
Trail Change In Use Process



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Evaluation Team Developed

- Qualified Trail Professional
- Resource Specialists
- Operations Staff (Ranger, Visitor Services)

Change In Use Evaluation

Trail Use Change Survey

Version 1-July 2008

Park (Including Classification): _____

Trail Name: _____

Location in Unit: _____

Current Use Designation(s): _____

Proposed Use Type Change: _____

Use Change Initiated By: _____

Evaluation Date: _____

Evaluation Criteria

	Yes	No
Based on Criteria, is this Use Change Compatible?		
Based on Criteria, does this Use Change Enhance Circulation?		
Based on Criteria, will this Use Change Decrease Trail Safety?		
Based on Criteria, is the Trail Sustainable Under Existing Use Conditions?		
With the Proposed Use Change Will the Trail be Sustainable		
Based on Criteria, will the Proposed Used Change Create Negative Impacts to the Natural or Cultural Resources?		
Will the Proposed Use Change and/or Modifications to the Existing Trail Create Significant Facility Maintenance or Operational Work Load?		
Are there other Routes in the Unit or on Nearby Public Lands that Adequately Accommodate the Type of Trail Use Proposed?		
Would needed modifications trigger outside agency permits?		

Recommendation Based on Evaluation Criteria - Substantiate in Comment Box

Recommend that the Park's General Plan or Road and Trail Management Plan be Developed or Amended to Evaluate this Change in Use		
Recommend that the Proposed Change in Trail Use be Approved		
Recommend that the Proposed Change in Trail Use be Approved After Design Modifications are Implemented:		
Recommend that the Major Reroute be Considered to Accommodate Proposed Change in Use		
Recommend that the Proposed Change in Trail Use be Approved with Management Options such as: Alternating Days of Use, One Way Travel, Seasonal Closures etc.		
Recommend that the Proposed Change Use be Put on Hold - See Comment Box Below		

Summary Criteria Evaluation Based on the Synthesis of Data from the Following Pages

Insert Map of Area of Proposed Use Change

Evaluation Considerations

Preliminary Considerations

- Does policy or approved planning prohibit the CIU?
  - Unit classification prohibits use (e.g. bike use in Wilderness area)
  - General Plan recommendations (planning zones prohibit use)
- Is the CIU on a system trail (not a volunteer trail) and has a CIU process been done previously on the trail?
- No need to continue the CIU evaluation if prohibited under these considerations

Evaluation Considerations

Existing Conditions

- Documents existing conditions of the trail such as:
  - Trail Classification (I,II,II,IV)
  - Use type (pedestrian, bike, horse)
  - Trail surface type (native, aggregate, asphalt)
  - ADA accessible

Evaluation Considerations

Compatibility with Existing Visitor Uses, Facilities and Services

- Would CIU physically conflict with existing facilities connected or adjacent to trail?
- Does proposed use currently exist in the park and is there statistical data to support the need or desire for the CIU?
- Would significant user conflict be anticipated with implementation of the CIU?

Evaluation Considerations

Effects to Circulation Patterns

- Would CIU provide a loop or other connection for the CIU user?
- Provide a connection to other land agency that allows similar use?
- Create a potential need for use changes on adjacent or connecting trails?

Evaluation Considerations

Effects to Trail Safety

- Are there currently documented safety concerns between different user groups?
- Do trail conditions currently allow for safe passing, and safe sight distances?
- Do trail conditions currently slow trail users?
- Can designs or management options be implemented to improve trail safety (e.g. speed control devices, signage, one way travel, widening of trail)?

Design options could include:

- Sinuous Layout
- Increase or limit sight Distances
- Pinch or Choke Points
- Roughened Surfaces
- Widths and Areas for Passing

Evaluation Considerations

Effects to Trail Sustainability

- Is the trail currently sustainable?
- Will the trail be sustainable with CIU without design and management options?
- Can design and management options improve sustainability with CIU (e.g. reconstruction, re-engineering, reroutes, additional structures, seasonal closures)

Evaluation Considerations

Effects to Natural and Cultural Resources

- Would CIU and or needed modifications for CIU significantly impact:
  - Natural resources (plant, wildlife, geologic, paleontological, water ways)
  - Cultural resources (archaeological or historical)
- Would modifications for CIU trigger outside agency permits?

Evaluation Considerations

Effects to Maintenance and Operations

- Would CIU and or needed modifications for CIU:
  - Require additional management practices to maintain user compliance?
  - Require additional maintenance to maintain standards?
- Can necessary management strategies be enforced?

California State Parks
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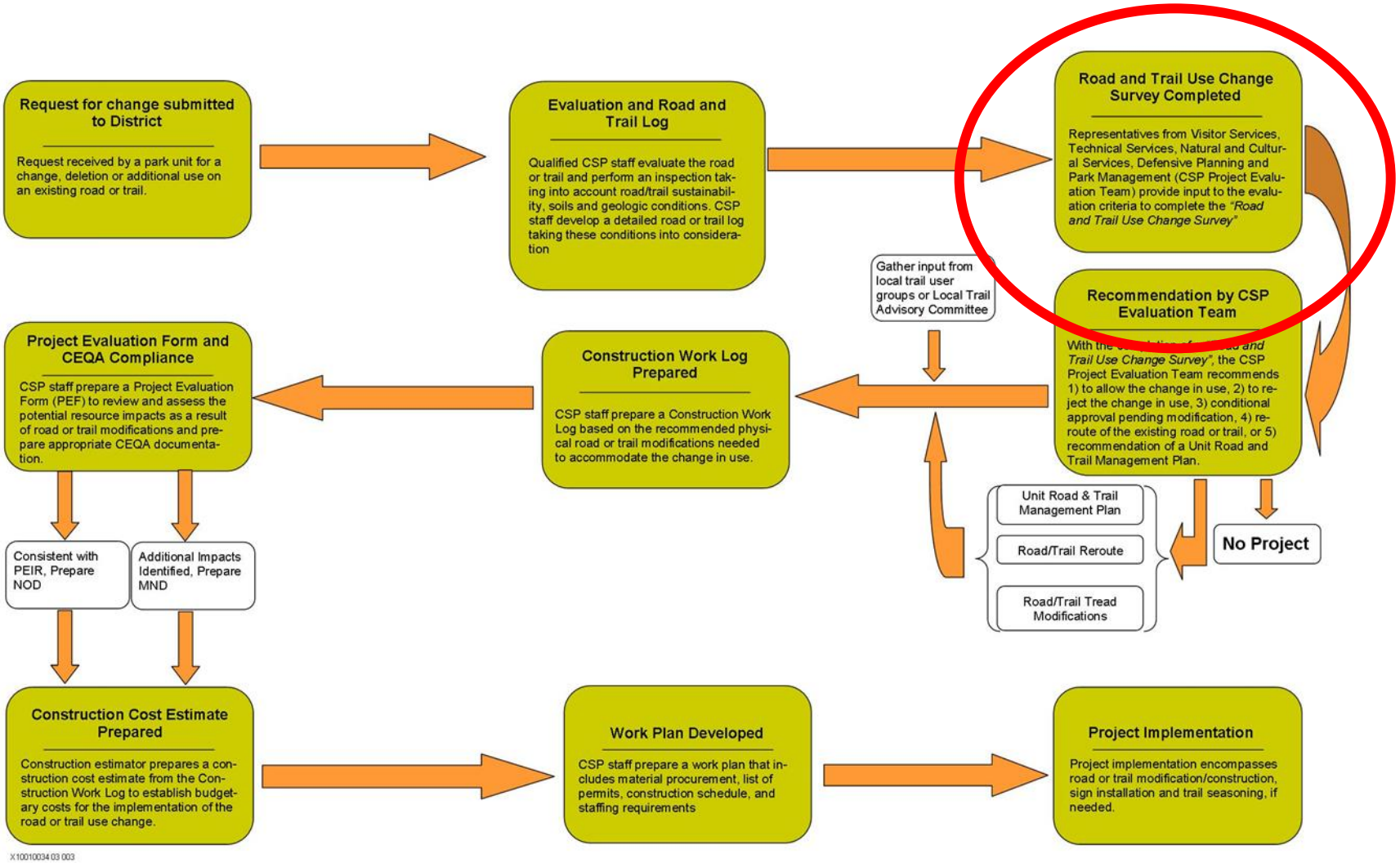


Change in Use Survey Completed

Team Recommendation:

- Disapprove
- Approve
- Approve with Conditions

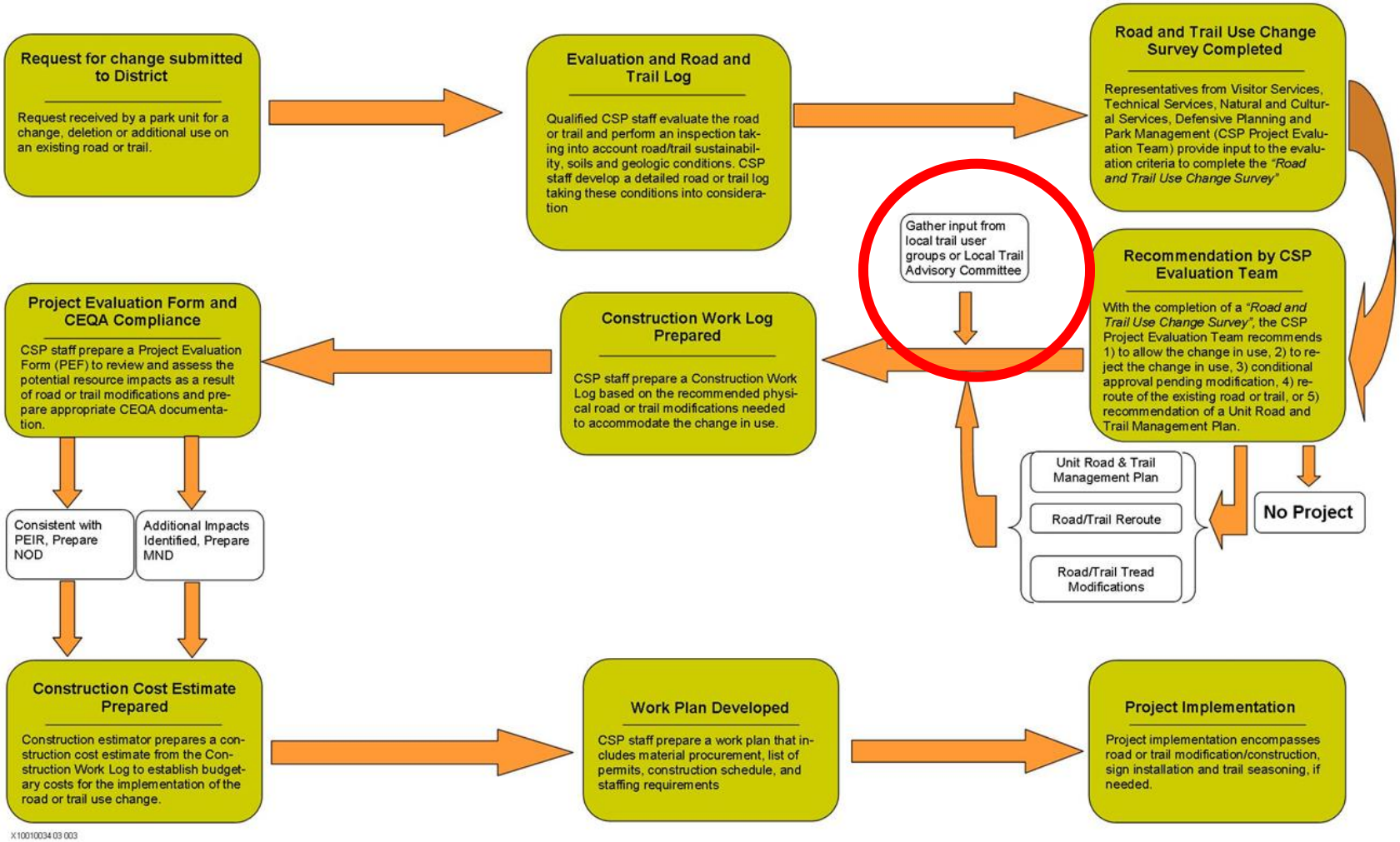
Recommendation Based on Evaluation Criteria - Substantiate in Comment Box		
Recommend that the Park's General Plan or Road and Trail Management Plan be Developed or Amended to Evaluate this Change in Use		X
Recommend that the Proposed Change in Trail Use be Approved		X
Recommend that the Proposed Change in Trail Use be Approved After Design Modifications are Implemented:		X
Recommend that the Major Reroute be Considered to Accommodate Proposed Change in Use	X	
Recommend that the Proposed Change in Trail Use be Approved with Management Options such as: Alternating Days of Use, One Way Travel, Seasonal Closures etc.		X
Recommend that the Proposed Change Use be Put on Hold - See Comment Box Below		

- Recommend General Plan or Road and Trail Management Plan

Approve with Conditions

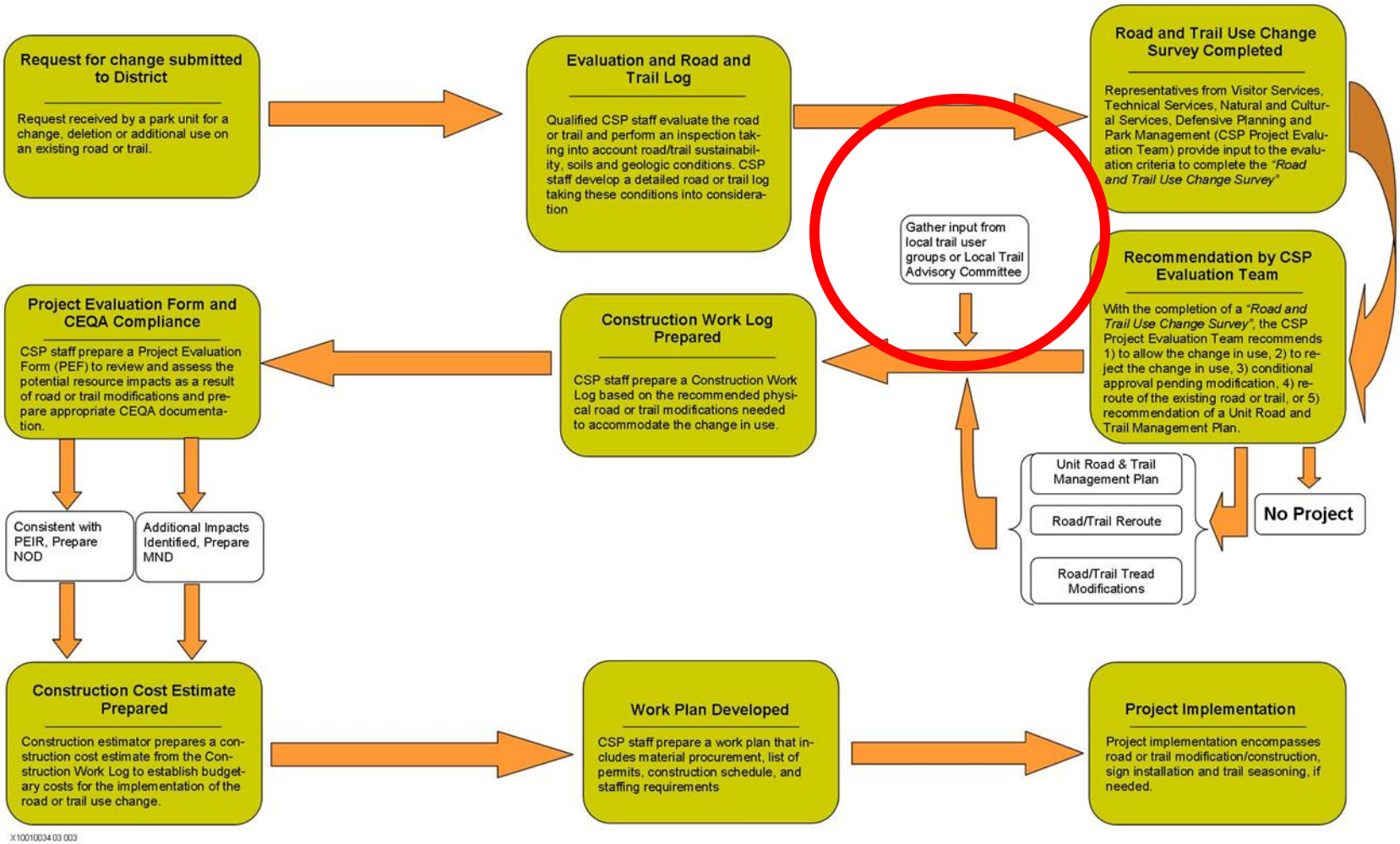
- Reconstruction
- Reroute
- Seasonal Closure
- One Way Travel
- Alternating Days of Use

California State Parks
Trail Change In Use Process



Get Park User Input on Recommendation

California State Parks
Trail Change In Use Process



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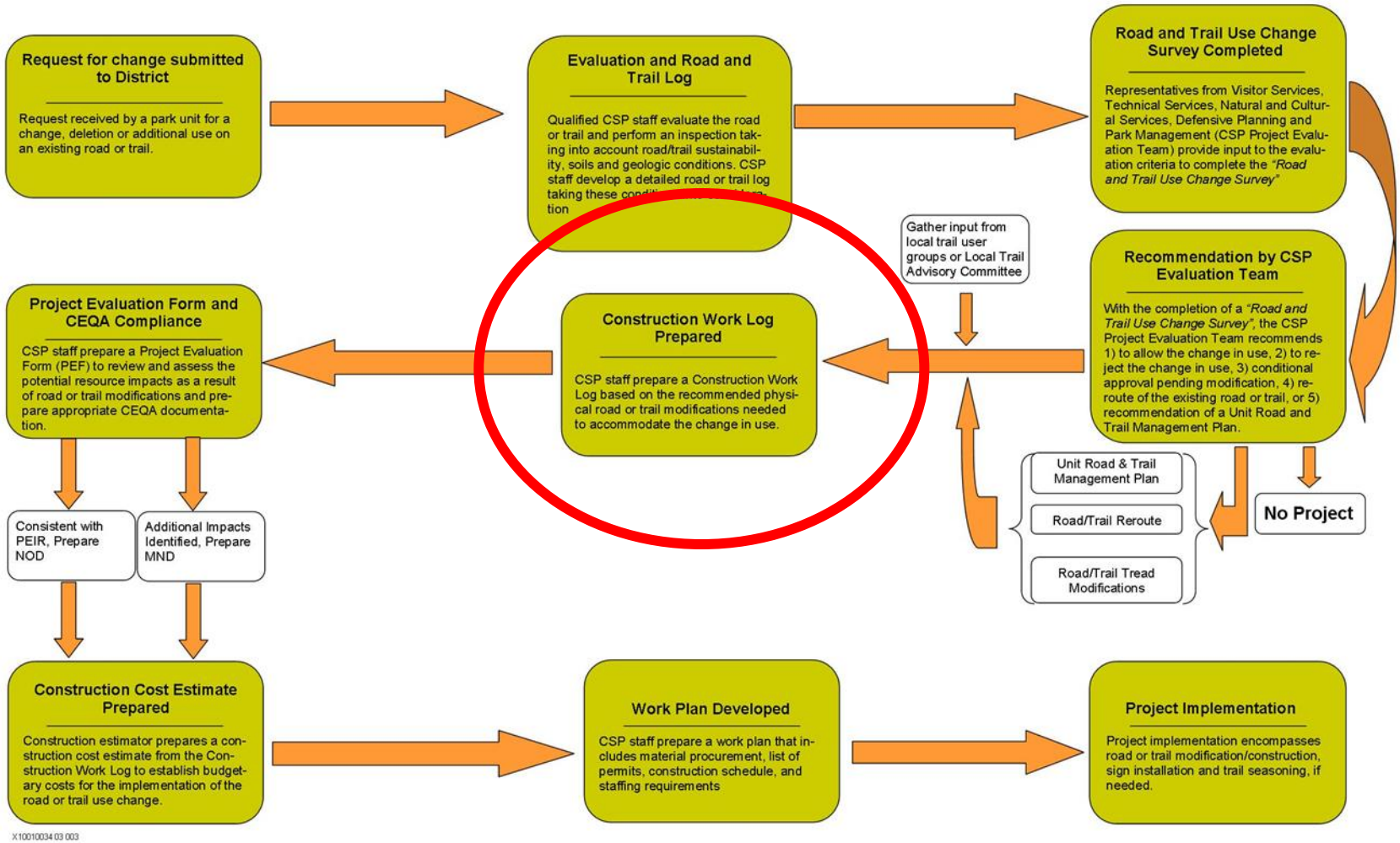

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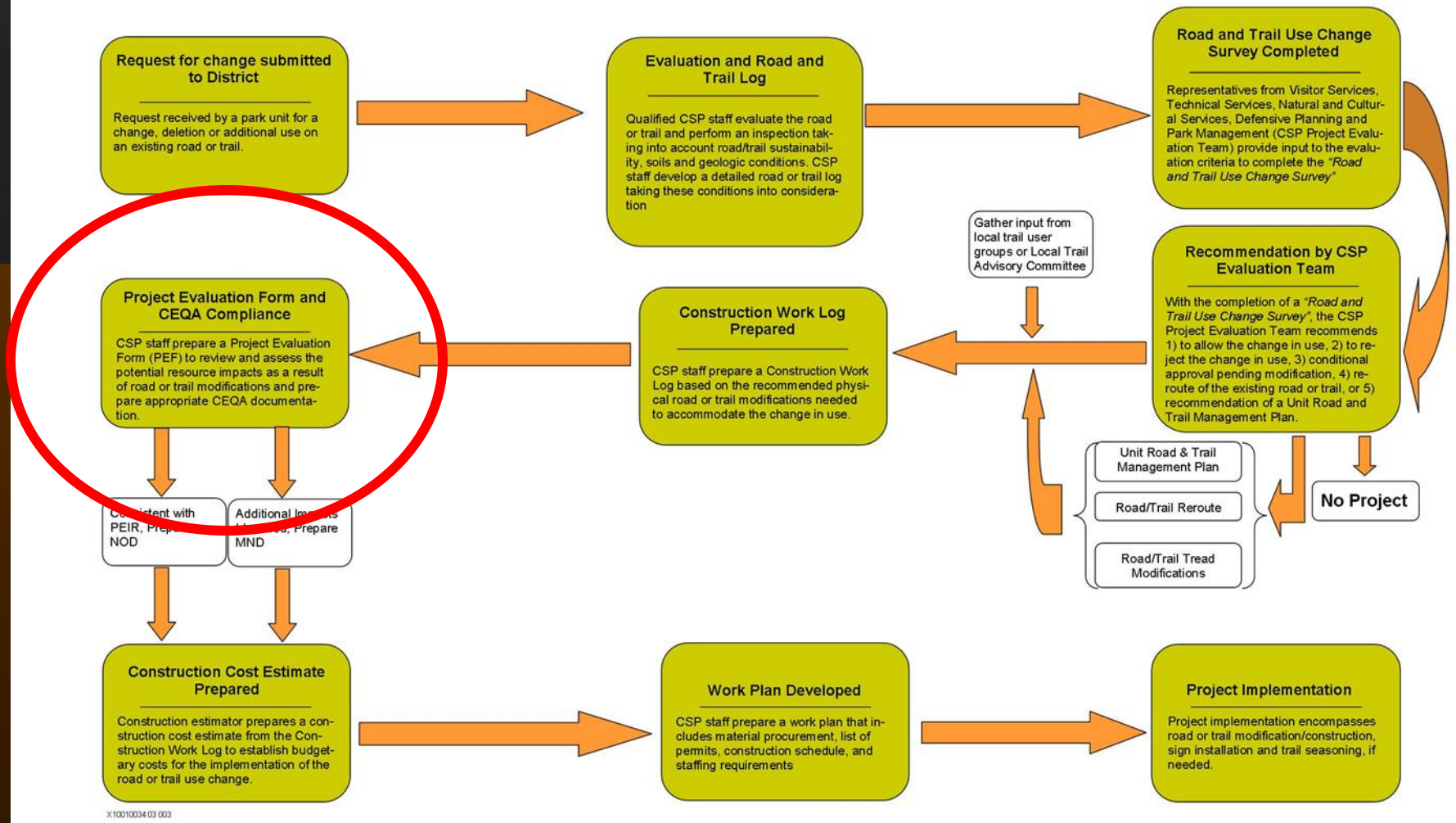

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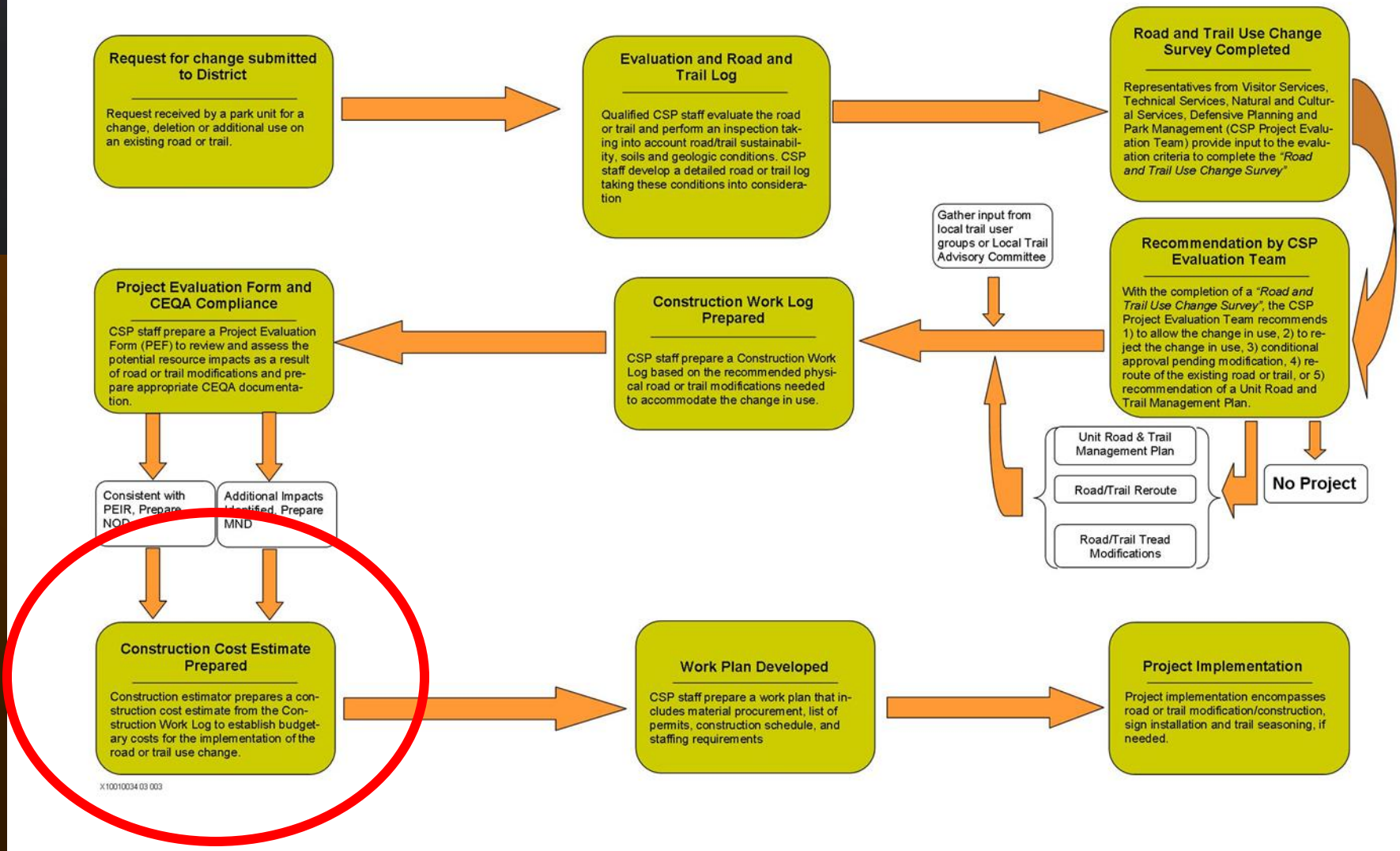

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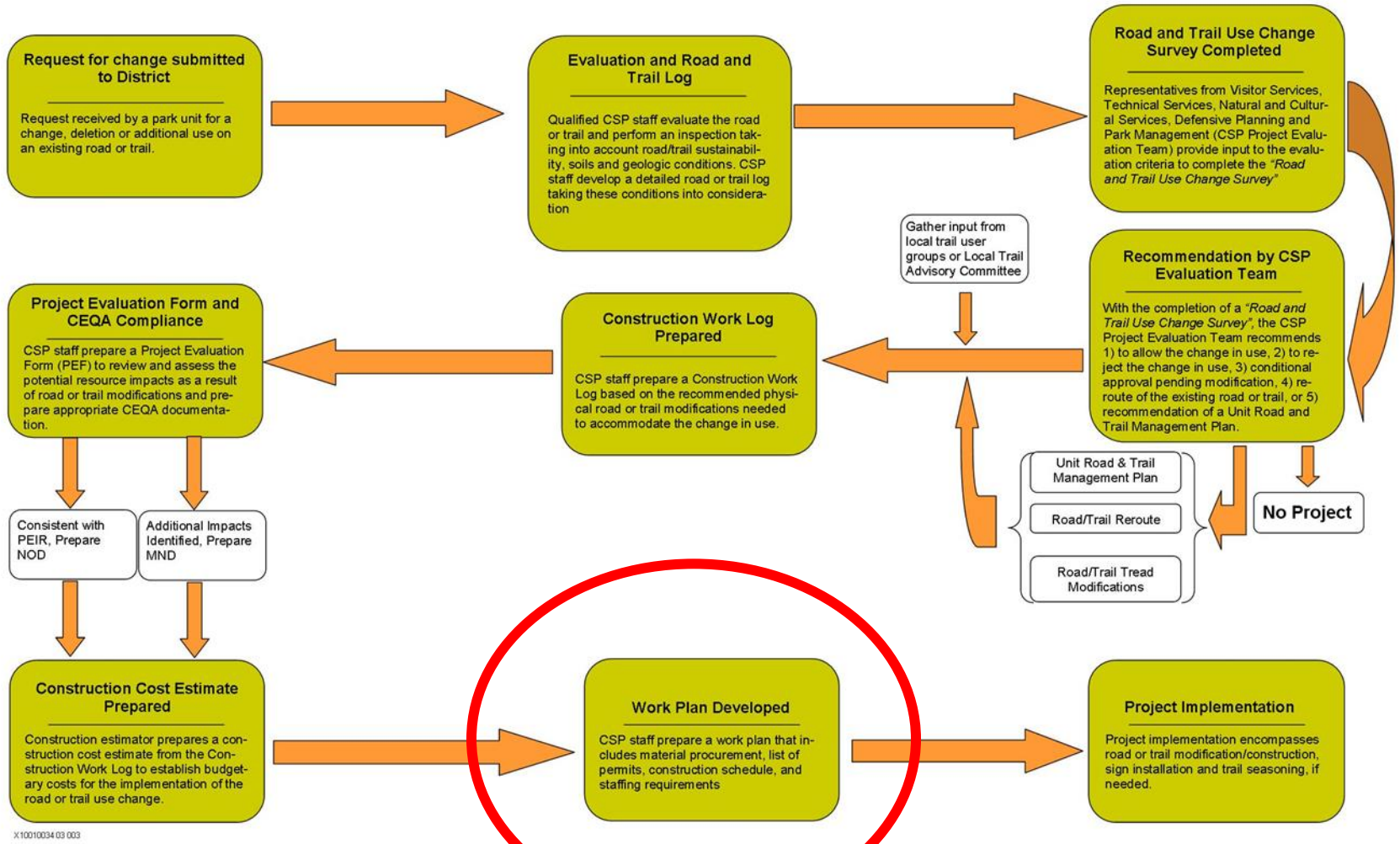

California State Parks Trails Policy Review

- What is the current trail use policy for California State Parks?
- Summarize the Change-in –Use Process